

## SIZE AND WEIGHT GUIDE FOR CHILD SAFETY SEATS

### FROM BIRTH TO 12 MONTHS AND 20 POUNDS

- Use an infant or convertible seat facing the rear

### 12 MONTHS AND 20 POUNDS TO 4 YEARS AND 40 POUNDS

- Use a convertible or toddler seat

### 4 YEARS AND 40 POUNDS TO 8 YEARS AND 80 POUNDS

- Use either highback booster or backless booster with lap/shoulder belt system
- When they have outgrown the convertible or toddler seat use the vehicle lap/shoulder belt in the rear seat with a booster seat that positions the lap/shoulder belt correctly it should secure the lap belt across the child's hips, and position the shoulder belt so it does not cross the face or the front of the neck **OR**

### CHILDREN OVER 4'9"

- Use the rear lap/shoulder belt alone if it fits properly – does not cross the face or neck and fits across the child's hips and does not ride up across the stomach.

### 8 YEARS AND OLDER AND 80 POUNDS OR MORE

- Use the protection system in the vehicle.
- Use the lap belt, positioned low on the hips and adjusted snugly.

# SAFETY BELTS



# AND CHILD RESTRAINTS

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## OUR LAW

Montana law states that a driver may not operate a motor vehicle upon a highway of the state of Montana unless each occupant of a designated seating position is wearing a properly adjusted and fastened seat belt, or, if (61-9-420) applies, is properly restrained in a child restraint system.

## WHY BELTS?

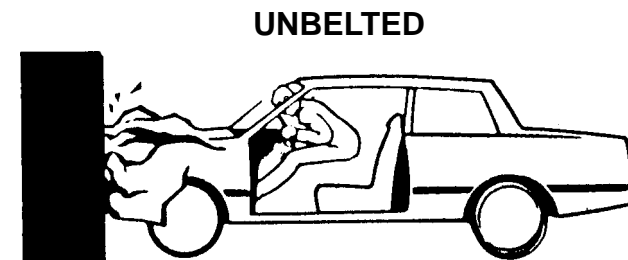
Safety belts are the most effective means of reducing fatalities and serious injuries in traffic crashes. Among passenger vehicle occupants over 4 years old, safety belts saved an estimated 14,164 lives in 2002

## FACTS

Safety belts reduce the risk of fatal injuries to front seat passenger car occupants by 45%, and the risk of moderate-to-critical injuries by 50%. For light trucks the risk of fatal injuries is reduced by 60% and moderate-to-critical, 65%. In the United States, every 9 seconds someone is injured in a traffic crash. Every 13 seconds someone is killed.

Traffic-related injuries are the leading cause of death for children and young adults ages 4 to 33, and are the leading cause of all injury deaths in America.

Unbuckled crash victim's treatment costs are 59% higher than buckled victims



## AVERAGE FATALITIES

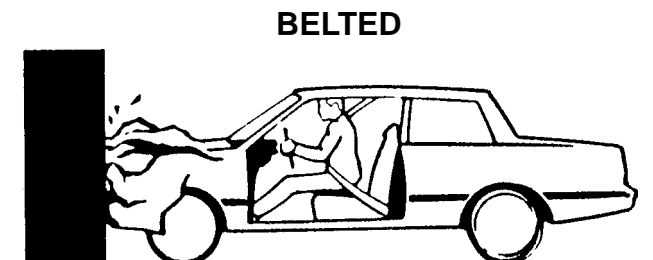
Over the past 5 years there were an average of :

- 239 Fatalities each year in Montana
- 75% of those fatalities were not wearing safety belts
- 48% of those fatalities were totally or partially ejected from their vehicles

## WHAT THEY DO

Safety belts and child restraint seats help prevent injury 6 different ways:

- Prevent partial or total ejection.
- Prevent occupants from being thrown into each other.
- Distribute crash forces across the strongest portions of the body – hips – shoulders – and chest.
- Spread those forces over a greater area of the body.
- Allow the body to slow down gradually.
- Protect the head and spinal cord from impacts inside the vehicle such as with the windshield, steering wheel, or the dashboard or frame.

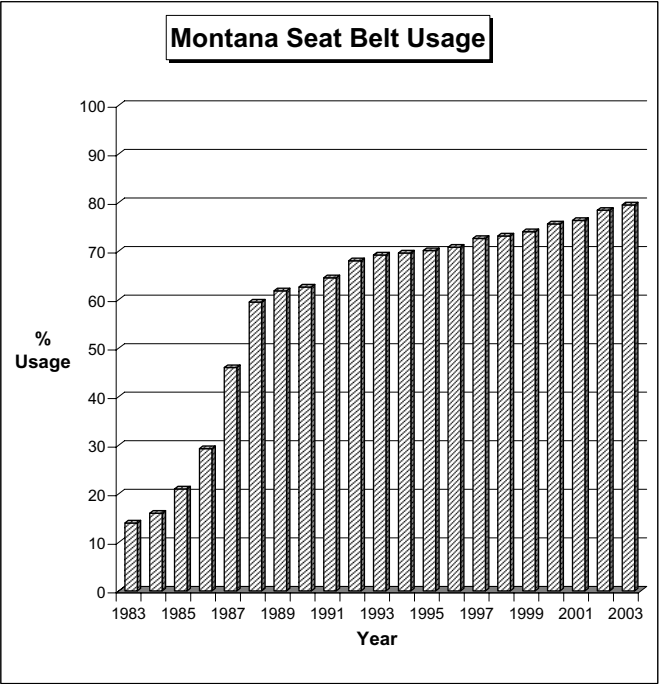


# HOW TO WEAR THEM

**LOW-** The lap belt should be two to four inches below the waist, snug across your hip and pelvic bones. Do not wear it across your stomach.

**SNUG-** The shoulder strap goes over your collarbone then across your chest and shoulders. Take the slack out of the belt by pulling and letting it retract.

**RIGHT-** Never wear the shoulder strap under or behind your arm. If your vehicle has a shoulder belt that automatically crosses your chest, you must fasten the lap belt to be properly buckled in.



Chg 1 Year	+1.9%	+3.6%	+1.8%	+6.1%	+2.8%
Chg 5 Year	+5.0%	+4.3%	+8.7%	+8.9%	+5.5%

Source: TIS – Montana Department of Transportation

# PROPERLY RESTRAINED

Properly restrained means fastened in a manner prescribed by the manufacturer of the system that permits the system to act as a body restraint.

# AIR BAGS

Most later model vehicles are equipped with air bags, both on the driver side and the passenger side. Air bags work *with* safety belts and are not meant to work as a substitute for them. Most airbags deploy *only* in frontal crashes and offer a supplemental form of protection. They do not protect you during a side, rear or roll-over crash. In order for your airbag to effectively protect you, you *must* be properly wearing your safety belt.

Currently there are a few models of vehicles that offer as standard equipment, side air bags or “curtains”, that will provide protection in side crashes. Other vehicle models offer them as an option. Check with your automobile dealer for more information on this type of safety feature.

# PENALTY FOR NON-USE

Montana law provides for a \$20.00 fine given to the driver of the vehicle if there is a citation issued for a safety belt violation.



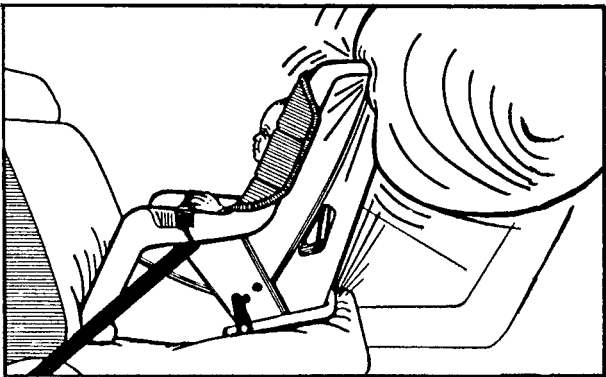
# CHILD RESTRAINT USAGE

When you bring your baby home from the hospital, use a child safety seat, and then every time thereafter. Be sure to use *your* seat belt also. Parents buckling and unbuckling your children each trip will help the children develop a life long habit of safety belt use.

Install the child restraint seats in the vehicle according to the manufacturer’s instructions. Be sure to read the vehicle’ owner’s manual for proper safety seat installation in your vehicle. Make sure your child is buckled into the seat correctly and that the seat is correctly buckled into the vehicle.

# AIRBAGS AND CHILD RESTRAINTS

The safest postion for any type of child seat is the REAR SEAT, even if a car is not equipped with a passenger side air bag. This is particularly true when rear-facing infant safety seats are placed in a car with a passenger side air bag because the child could be seriously injured if the air bag deploys. Rear-facing infant seats extend close to the dash board.



If it is ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY to place a child in the front with the driver, the passenger seat should be MOVED AS FAR BACK as possible. This will maximize the distance between the dashboard and the child seat and lessen the possibility of injury. The Child seat SHOULD NOT come into contact with dash board.

Children under age 12 should always ride in the back seat of any vehicle.

# OUR CHILD RESTRAINT LAW

If a child under 6 years of age and weighing less than 60 pounds is a passenger in a motor vehicle, that motor vehicle must be equipped with one approved child safety restraint for each child in the vehicle and each child must be properly restrained.

# CHILD RESTRAINT LAW PENALTY

Failure to comply with the child restraint law is punishable by a fine of up to \$100.00.